LOUISIANA PURCHASE, GR 6-8

By 1800, the young nation was growing quickly. Its new President, Thomas Jefferson represented this growth in many ways. He was the voice of the Western farmer whom he believed would be the foundation of this new nation. But to acquire the dignity and virtue necessary to participate in this great republican experiment, land was needed. So when the opportunity to double the physical land mass presented itself, Jefferson, despite his reservations about Constitutional authority and the impact of all of that land of the fate of slavery, agreed to the terms of sale.

**Procedure**

1. To indicate the state of the country’s growth in 1800, show the students the US Population Chart and the Presidential Election Map of 1800. Have them complete Section I of the Student Sheet. Discuss their results.
2. As the farmers moved West, they needed to get their crops to market and the Mississippi River became very important. Look at the Map of North America, 1799 with your Students. Find the Mississippi and the Port of New Orleans. Why was it a problem when the French stopped letting us use the port in 1802?
3. The small farmer was very important to both Jefferson the revolutionary and Jefferson the President. He believed that the nation would be built on the farms of those who worked hard and learned the importance of virtue through their hard work. But land was necessary for these farms. Be sure to include Jefferson’s vision of the importance of the small farmer for the new nation.
4. Have Students read the excerpt about the Louisiana Purchase below or in their texts and complete Part II of the Student Sheet. Discuss their results. In addition to the issues of Strict Construction, Jefferson knew that there would be issues over both Native Americans and the extensive of slavery. You may or may not want to explore these topics with your students at this time.

**Time Allocation:** Part I: 20-30 minutes Part II: 15-30 minutes

**Materials Needed**

US Population Chart, 1790-1810

Presidential Election Map, 1800, http://maps.bpl.org/details\_12388/?srch\_query=paullin&srch\_fields=all&srch\_style=exact&srch\_fa=save

Map of North America, <http://maps.bpl.org/details_10587/?mtid=1390>

Information about Louisiana Purchase, http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/louisianapurchase.html

**Assessment Criteria**

Did students learn the reasons that President Jefferson wanted to acquire the Louisiana Territory?

Did students understand the reservations President Jefferson had about acquiring the land from the French?

Did students see the positive and negative results of doubling the size of the young country?

**Common Core Curriculum Standards**

English/Language Arts: Anchor Standards: CCSR for Reading

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/R/7/) Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.9](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/CCRA/R/9/) Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

English/Language Arts: History and Social Studies

Key Ideas and Details

 [CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/1/) Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RH/6-8/7/) Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.

America has grown in size and population over its long history. There were many good reasons to expand the size of the country but sometimes there were also reasons to think twice. In 1803 the United States got the chance to double its size and the President had to think long and hard about what to do.

**Part I**

Look at the Population Chart and Presidential Election Map your teacher gives you.

1. Which states had the largest populations in 1790? 1800? 1810?
2. Which states were growing the fastest (that is even if their numbers were not as big, which ones were doubling or even tripling over a 10 year period)? What part of the country were they in?
3. Whom do you think was moving to those parts of the country? Why do you think they were moving there?
4. Look at the 1800 Presidential Election Map. Who voted for Jefferson? What did his supporters want?

**Part II**

1. What was Jefferson hoping to get when he sent Livingstone to France?
2. What did Napoleon offer instead?
3. What were the terms of the deal?
4. Thomas Jefferson believed that he could only do things if they were exactly written in the Constitution but nowhere in the Constitution did it say that Presidents could buy land.

But he really wanted Louisiana for the farmers and for the nation.

What were the reasons to buy Louisiana?

Besides the Constitution, might there be any other problems with buying Louisiana?

Do you think Jefferson was right to purchase Louisiana for the country?

***United States Population Chart, 1790-1810***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STATE** | **1790** | **1800** | **1810** |
| MAINE | 96540 | 151719 | 228705 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | 141885 | 183858 | 214460 |
| VERMONT | 85425 | 154465 | 217895 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 378787 | 422845 | 472040 |
| RHODE ISLAND | 68825 | 69122 | 76931 |
| CONNECTICUT | 237946 | 251002 | 261942 |
| NEW YOR | 340120 | 589051 | 959049 |
| NEW JERSEY | 184139 | 211149 | 245562 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 434373 | 602365 | 810091 |
| OHIO |  | 45365 | 230760 |
| INDIANA |  | 5641 | 24520 |
| ILLINOIS |  |  | 12282 |
| MICHIGAN |  |  | 4762 |
| DELAWARE | 59096 | 64273 | 72674 |
| MARYLAND | 319728 | 341548 | 380546 |
| WASHINGTON DC |  | 8144 | 15471 |
| VIRGINIA | 691737 | 807559 | 877683 |
| WVIRGINIA | 55873 | 78592 | 105469 |
| NCAROLINA | 393751 | 478103 | 555500 |
| SCAROLINA | 249073 | 345591 | 415115 |
| GEORGIA | 82548 | 162686 | 252433 |
| KENTUCKY | 73677 | 220995 | 406511 |
| TENNESSEE | 35691 | 105602 | 261727 |
| ALABAMA |  | 1250 | 9046 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 7600 | 31306 |

***Presidential Elections Map 1800***

****